

INFORMATION ~~SECRET~~ REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)/USSR

SUBJECT Soviet Indoctrinated Germans at Winsdorf;
Seydlitz Troops at Minsk-Süd

DATE DISTR. 8 July 1948

PLACE
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At Wünsdorf

1. The flow of indoctrinated Germans to Wunsdorf (291) from Russia on Free Germany Committee political assignments or for special police duty halted in late April 1948. Although billets were prepared for 600 men scheduled to arrive on 7 May, no transport had made its appearance up to 20 May. There have been no recent arrivals of small groups, either. Source alleges that these small groups usually consisted of three to five men, always regular German Army officers and members of the Bund Deutscher Offiziere. The last such officers to arrive are still billeted in the Wunsdorf Sportschule. Their work is connected with the revival of enlargement of the former OKH message center underneath the Sportschule.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: As previously reported by [REDACTED] these fifteen of 25X1A
 officers were among thirty to forty men who arrived at Wunsdorf on 23 April.
 Their colleagues were shipped elsewhere some time between 23 April and 2 May.)

2. During late April and early May, a large number of textile boxes were delivered to Wunsdorf and stored in the Sportschule stockrooms. According to Polish laborers who unpacked them, the boxes contained uniforms resembling those of the Wehrmacht except that the cloth was of a more vivid olive green. In early May, a truck from Bautzen (A60) delivered several hundred thousand red, black, and gold armbands.

Comment: Yellow armbands with the word "German" embroidered in black were being made by the former Dresdner Gardinen- und Spitzenmanufaktur in Reick [redacted] according to an April report [redacted] which said that 250,000 25X1A such armbands had been delivered to a Soviet Army agency up to April 1948. A March report [redacted] described German PWs training for guard duty at Jüterbog and wearing Soviet uniforms with broad dark yellow armbands on their left sleeves.

Seydlitz Troops in Russia

(The following information was obtained by source from

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There are three such camps on the former GAF field at Minsk-Süd, composed chiefly of infantry EM and NCOs. These units provided the 600 men who went to Wunsdorf via Fürstenwalde in April 1948 and who are now border police in the Southern Harz region.

4. While the Minsk-Süd troops have a regular duty roster, chief emphasis is laid on political training. There are classes in military theory; two hours daily are given to sand table tactics, and one hour daily is reserved for military drill. Strict discipline is maintained and saluting is obligatory. Staff officers compose the teaching group and on occasion lectures are given by high-ranking German officers, introduced under pseudonyms. Seydlitz is alleged to have spoken several times under the name of General Kühn.

5. The troops at Minsk-Süd had a red flag with a red, white, and black insertion in the upper left corner; this banner was abandoned in March 1948 and supplanted by a red flag with white-edged black cross bars similar to the Dannebrog displayed on German aircraft and armor during the war. This emblem also appears on the fenders of Seydlitz staff cars.

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~~Comment:~~ A recent report [redacted] "A flag cloth factory 25X1A near Plauen in Vogtland received orders in early May 1948 for production of a large quantity of red flags with black, white, and red insets in the upper left corner. The sample flag, representing the National Democratic Party, had been approved by the German Central Administration of the Interior." See [redacted]

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6. The Seydlitz camps have divisional staffs (Hauptverwaltungsstab), regimental staffs (Inspektionesstübe), and - for each company and each battalion - administrative staffs (Führungsausschuss), the latter elected by the EM. The company staff is designated by alphabetical letter, the battalion staff by Arabic numeral.

7. So far as is known, Seydlitz officers and EM are not armed. They are paid at approximately Wehrmacht rates. Pay may be saved or used to make canteen purchases. Rations are said to be excellent. Nothing is known about the equipment of special troops, though it is rumored that an armored unit has been established at Slutsk.

8. Seydlitz personnel did not volunteer but were selected on a physical fitness basis by German and Soviet physicians in PW camps. The average age is 25-30. Before proceeding to a camp corresponding to their branch of service, the men were given a cursory examination by a Soviet commission believed to be of MVD origin.

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